

Message Text

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CONFIDENTIAL PORT LOUIS 1125

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PIMT MP
SUBJECT: MAURITIAN PARLIAMENTARY ELECTIONS: MAURITIAN MILITANT
MOVEMENT WINS, POSSIBLY A MAJORITY

REF: PORT LOUIS 1124

1. MAURITIAN GOVERNMENT MEDIA ANNOUNCED, AS OF 2100 HOURS LOCAL, THAT MAURITIAN MILITANT MOVEMENT (MMM) HAD WON 29 SEATS, INDEPENDENCE PARTY (IP) 20 SEATS, AND MAURITIAN SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC PARTY (PMSD) 7 SEATS. COUNT WAS SUSPENDED UNTIL TOMORROW IN ONE DISTRICT (RAMGOOLAM'S), WHERE IP HAS BEEN LEADING STRONGLY FOR ALL THREE SEATS, AND IN ANOTHER DISTRICT WHERE A RECOUNT HAS BEEN DEMANDED BUT WHICH REPORTED TWO IP SEATS AND ONE MMM SEAT. IF THERE IS NO CHANGE AFTER ABOVE TWO DISTRICTS ARE RESOLVED, FINAL DIVISION FOR 62 SEATS DECIDED TODAY WILL BE:

MMM 30 SEATS
IP 25 SEATS
PMSD 7 SEATS

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2. RAMGOOLAM IS SURE TO WIN HIS SEAT. BERENGER OF MMM ENDED UP FIRST IN HIS DISTRICT AFTER A VERY CLOSE RACE WHICH GAVE OTHER TWO SEATS TO THE IP. ELEVEN MINISTERS IN THE LAST GOVERNMENT LOST THEIR SEATS, INCLUDING FOREIGN MINISTER WALTER, JAGATSINGH, B. GHURBURREN, MOHAMED, BUNDHUN, JAYPAL, POONOOSAMY, RAULT, MODUN, AH CHUEN, CHAPERON. AT LEAST 33 SITTING MEMBERS

WHO RAN, INCLUDING DEPUTY SPEAKER GUJADHUR, LOST THEIR SEATS. PMSD LEADER DUVAL MET A HUMILIATING DEFEAT. JUGNAUTH, MMM PRESIDENT AND SHADOW PRIME MINISTER, SQUEAKED IN. BOOLELL AND RINGADOO OF LABOR PARTY WERE AMONG VERY FEW PARTY OLD-TIMERS WHO WERE RETURNED. NEW ASSEMBLY WILL BE MOSTLY NEW FACES.

3. WHO WILL FORM NEW GOVERNMENT AND HOW REMAINS PROBLEMATIC. MMM IS VERY CLOSE TO AN ABSOLUTE MAJORITY VICTORY. ELECTORAL COMMISSION WILL PROCEED TOMORROW, AND FOLLOWING DAY IF NECESSARY, TO ALLOCATE EIGHT "BEST LOSER" SEATS, BUT ACCORDING TO CONSTITUTION THEY ARE NOT SUPPOSED TO CHANGE THE ELECTORAL RESULT, I.E., TURN A WINNING PARTY INTO A LOSER OR VICE VERSA. ALL WE CAN SAY AT THIS POINT IS THAT IF MMM FAILS TO WIN AN ABSOLUTE MAJORITY, THERE WILL BE A GREAT DEAL OF MANEUVERING IN COMING DAYS. IF MMM WINS A MAJORITY THERE MAY ALSO BE A LOT OF MANEUVERING. KEELEY

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